



Indigenous Housing Support Worker - Outreach

Peers Victoria is a peer based, grass roots organization for people in sex work or trade that has been in operation since 1995 on Lekwungen territory. Through direct service delivery and partnerships, Peers provides an array of outreach and drop-in support services, advocacy and public education to current and former sex workers.

Reporting to the Executive Director and in partnership with the Reaching Home housing support team and SACRED group facilitators, the **Indigenous Housing Support Worker (IHSW)** provides support services to unsheltered Indigenous women and Two-Spirit people who have a current or former history of sex work or trade.

In recognition of the urgent need for support for all unsheltered individuals, and the importance of recognizing existing relationships, the IHSW will provide basic necessities supports to all unsheltered individuals during their outreach activities. The IHSW will also consult with and support initiatives of the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) and work collaboratively with other outreach organizations and housing providers.

This position is connected to the Peers SACRED program (Indigenous Sex Workers Addressing, Creating and Redefining Experiential Diversity). SACRED operates as a monthly group where members can participate in cultural activities, share a meal, and discuss wellness topics related to the intersections of sex work/trade, Indigeneity, and peer-led self-governance. It is anticipated that individuals supported by the Indigenous Housing Support worker will participate in the SACRED group.

The IHSW will work 30 hours per week. Days of the week and times of the day are flexible, but consideration will be given to weekends and early evenings to expand the range of support offerings to unsheltered individuals (for example Sunday to Thursday 12-6). Peers outreach workers work in collaboration with other organizations locally delivering necessities supports to unsheltered individuals and normally work in pairs, either with another Peers Victoria staff person or with a partner from an allied organization.

This position is part of a temporary and urgent response to provide support and resources to unsheltered Indigenous women and Two-Spirit peoples due to COVID-19 via partnership between Canada and the Capital Regional District (<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness.html>). The position is funded until November 2020 with the possibility of renewal.

Specific duties for this position include:



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VICTORIA RESOURCES SOCIETY

1. Support unsheltered Indigenous women and Two-Spirit individuals by delivering basic needs resources and attending to other needs identified by persons served;
2. Listen to the housing preferences of unsheltered Indigenous women and Two-Spirit individuals and facilitate referrals to additional support resources, and permanent and temporary housing; it is expected that intensive supports will be provided to 15-20 individuals over six months, while less intensive basic needs supports will be provided to 50+ individuals in collaboration with other outreach workers;
3. Support Indigenous women and Two-Spirit individuals in participating in cultural activities led by the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness, including the care package delivery program, shelter, and Spa'Qun House;
4. Collaborate with other outreach staff from IHRT, SOLID, AVI, Island Health, and Indigenous led housing support staff to provide basic needs supports;
5. Participate in advocacy and community development opportunities relevant to meeting the needs of unsheltered Indigenous women and Two-Spirit peoples;
6. Work in collaboration with the SACRED facilitators at Peers to identify and implement cultural supports needed by persons served;
7. Collaborate with the the Reaching Home housing support program and other Peers team members to support housing needs being met;
8. Maintenance of all documentation necessary to report on the outputs, outcomes and financial records of this work;
9. Adhere to Peers policies, procedures, values and mandate.

Skills/Qualities:

- Ability to work with Individuals representing diverse Indigenous Nations, while respecting the cultural and governance protocols of local Coast Salish people including the LKWUNGEN, WSANEC, Kwakwaka'wakw and Nuuchahnulth nations.
- Knowledge of local Indigenous and non-Indigenous social services including housing, income and food security supports that may benefit persons served;
- Strong analysis of colonialism and the ways in which historical and ongoing colonization impacts Indigenous women and Two-Spirit people in sex work or trade specifically;
- Strong understanding of the needs of unsheltered individuals and knowledge on how to support this diverse community;
- Understanding of trauma informed care;
- Approachable, non-judgmental, empathic, and calm in conflict or crisis;



- Knowledge of Indigenous approaches to positive sexuality and substance use harm reduction models;
- Strong communication skills and collaborative approach;
- Knowledge of diversity of local sex industry and ability to connect with target population;
- A degree in social service provision or equivalent experience in community support (4+ years) is required.

Job details:

- 30 hours per week
- Pay range is \$25-28/hour
- Requires a valid BC driver license and use of personal vehicle;
- Must have Basic First Aid/CPR and experience in overdose response;
- Food safe is an asset
- Vulnerable Sector Criminal Record Check required;
- Position is funded through November 2020 with the possibility of renewal.

If you are interested in this employment opportunity, please submit a resume and a covering letter that summarizes your relevant experience and skills by June 29, 2020 to peershiring@gmail.com. The position will remain open until a qualified candidate is found.

This position will be open to Indigenous persons with consideration given to applicants who have lived experience in sex work/trade or experience working with people in sex work/trade. It is beneficial to identify in the cover letter if you have lived expertise relevant to the position. We also encourage applications from, but not limited to, people with diverse abilities, and people representing diverse genders and sexualities.